



Public Use Projects

March 16, 2015

**Water Resource Advisory Commission
Recreation Issues Workshop**

**Dan Cotter
Land Stewardship Section
Field Operations and Land Management Division**

Kissimmee River Airboat Signage

- Follow-up discussion on the airboat signage along the Kissimmee River.



Kissimmee River Airboat Signage

- **Brief History (approx. timeline):**
 - **1980s-** District initiated acquisition under Save Our Rivers program for the Kissimmee River Restoration.
 - **1994-** Initial public use rules established for the area.
 - **1999-** FWC authorized to establish Kissimmee River Public Use Area.
 - **2001-** Kissimmee River 1st Phase of restoration completed.
 - **Early 2000s-** Airboat line established within approximately 200 yards of “tree line”.
 - **“Airboat Ports”** established later.

Kissimmee River Airboat Signage

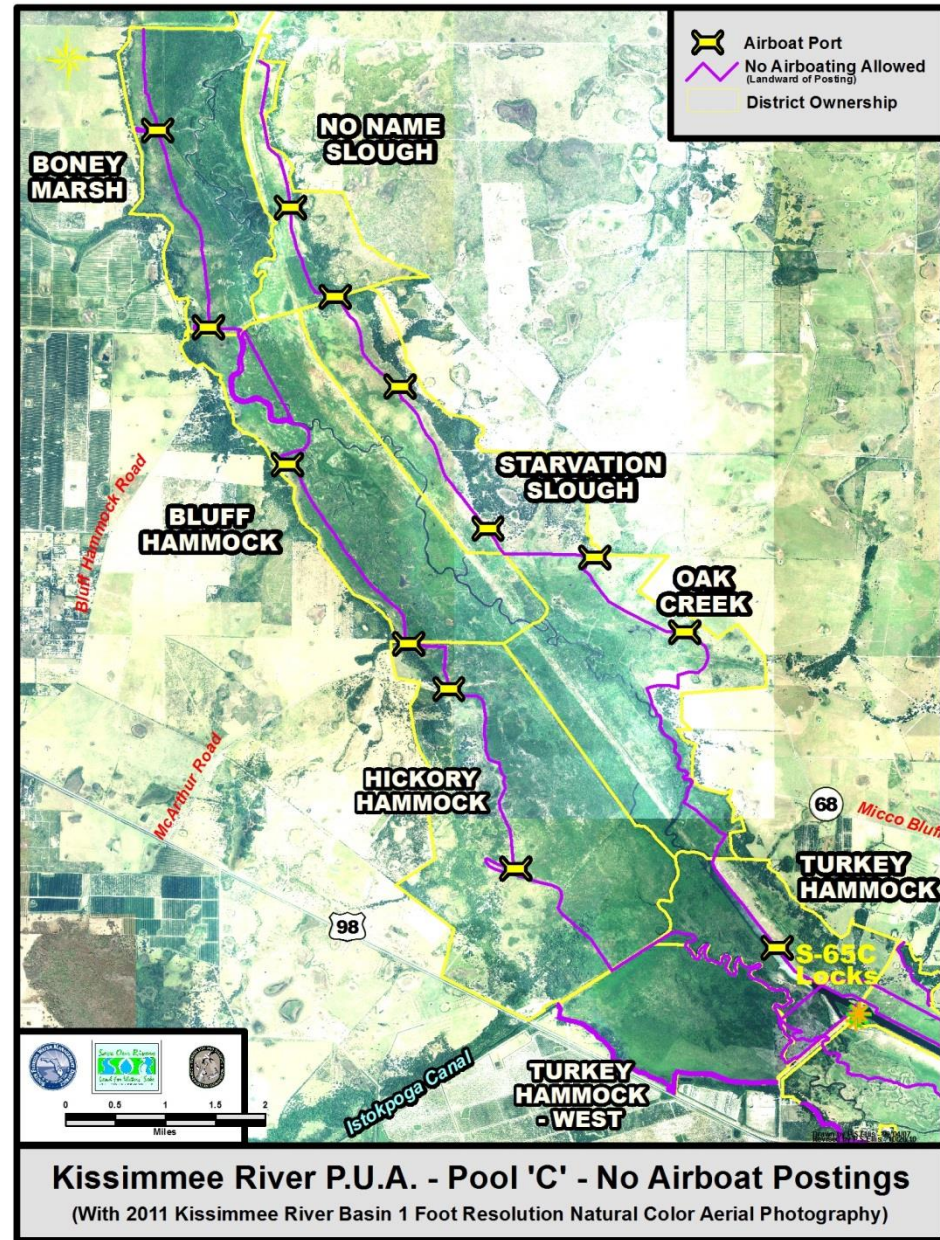
- **Brief History (continued):**
 - **Existing airboat line based on:**
 - **Ownership of public land adjacent to flood plain.**
 - **To accommodate different types of public uses.**
 - **Kissimmee River restoration project and protection of resource.**

Kissimmee River Airboat Signage

- Overview of current recreational uses and partnerships on this area.



- Overview of current airboat signage line on this area.



Kissimmee River Airboat Signage

■ Informational Field Visit on 1/31/15:

- Opportunity to view existing posted airboat line.
- Some comments:
 - Restrict airboats around HH Equestrian Center and remove this port.
 - Difficulty identifying the line.
 - No conflict with trail use.
 - General concurrence on moving airboat signage landward.



Kissimmee River Airboat Signage

- **Recommended signage realignment:**
 - Re-post signage landward.
 - Posting to occur during high water (wet season) July-October, peaks usually around Sept. timeframe (attempt to address before hunting season).
 - During re-posting take into account ownership, facilities (ex. camping areas), visibility of signage (ex. vegetation).
 - Recreation users welcome to volunteer during field postings, please provide contact information.

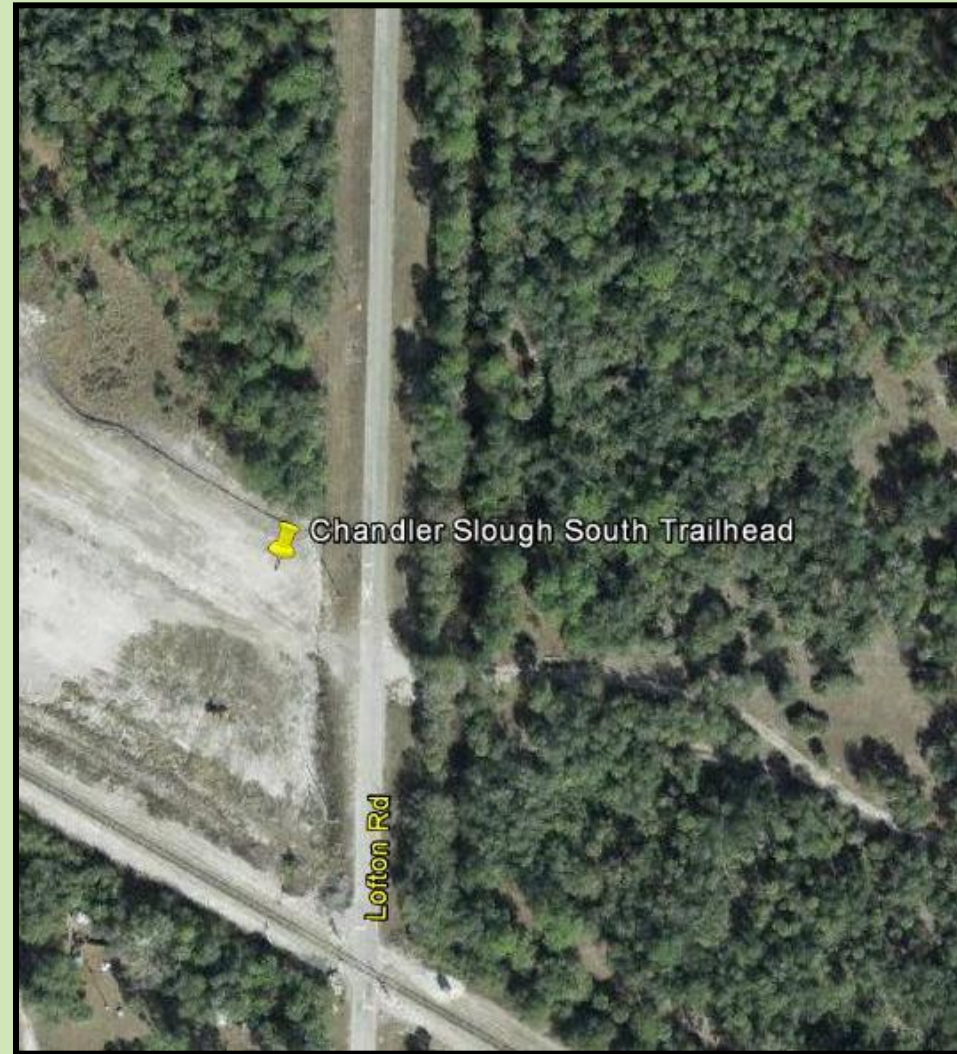
Kissimmee River Airboat Signage

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Recreation Facilities Updates

- **Chandler Slough**
 - **Parking access point at southern portion of property.**



Recreation Facilities Updates

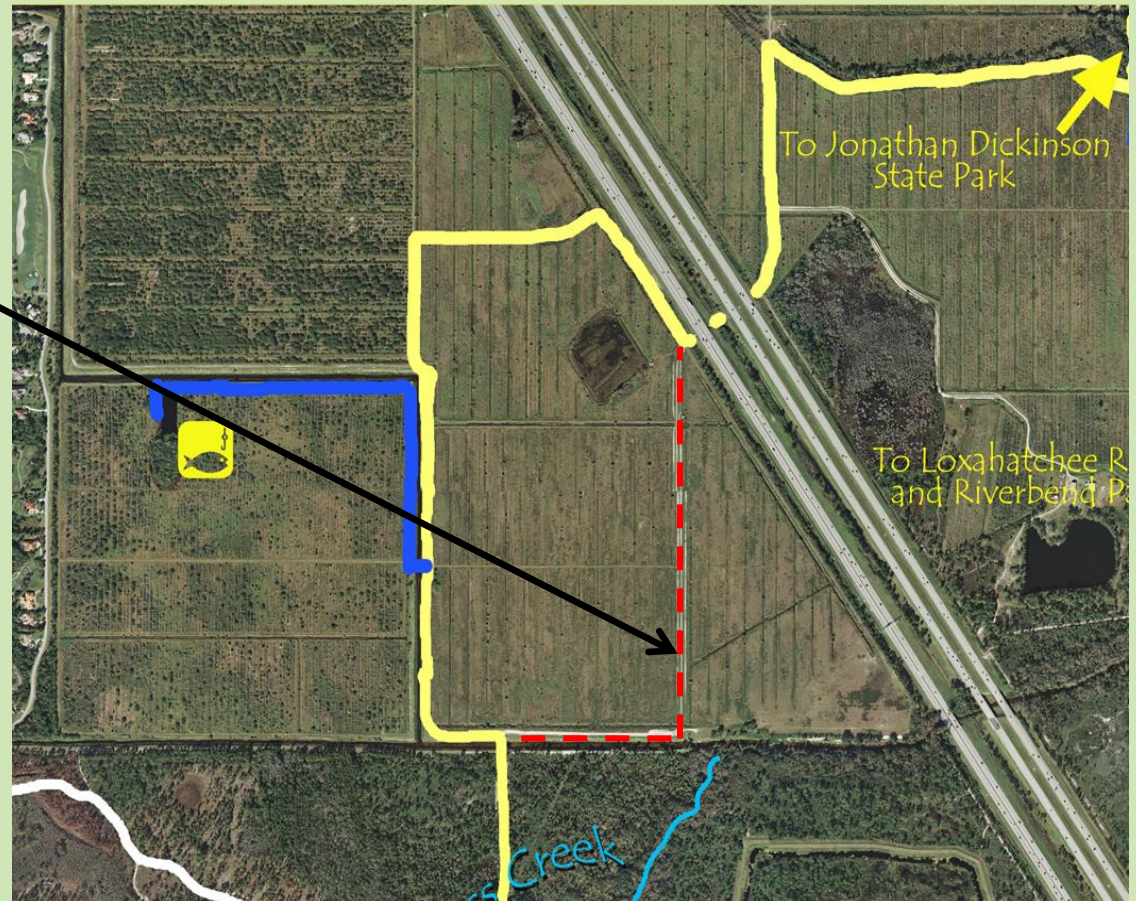
- **Starvation Slough**
 - Additional primitive camping area.
 - Starvation Slough North Campsite.
 - On-line Special Use License available.



Recreation Facilities Updates

■ Cypress Creek

- Additional trail route open on west side.



Recreation Facilities Updates

■ DuPuis Family Campground

- On-line Special Use License.
- SUL available for this camping area after July 1, 2015.



Recreation Facilities Updates

■ Allapattah

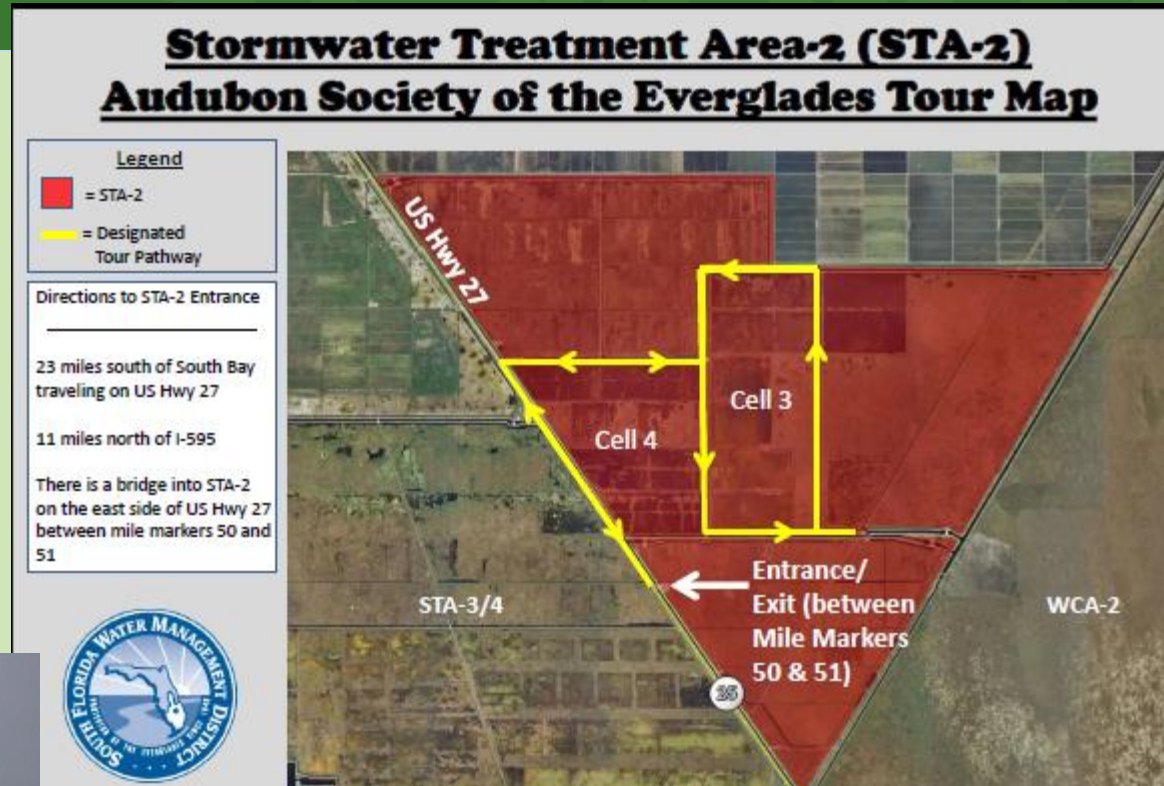
- Additional parking access point to be added in the future.
- Located on CR 609 just north of St. Rd. 714.



Recreation Program Updates

■ STA 2 Guided Birding Tours

- Next tour March 22nd.
- Contact 561-742-7791.



Recreation Program Updates

- Special Events coordinated by other organizations on District lands.



Thank You

